

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT MICHAEL GETLER BY-LINER WASHINGTON POST THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16 HEADED "WEST SAYS YUGOSLAVIA LET TERRORIST VISIT, LEAVE."
2. THE ELUSIVE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST KNOWN AS "CARLOS" WAS IN BELGRADE LAST WEEK BUT YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES IGNORED REQUESTS BY WESTERN GOVERNMENTS THAT HE BE ARRESTED, ACCORDING TO INFORMED WESTERN DIPLOMATS.
3. INSTEAD CARLOS, WHO IS WANTED BY FRENCH AND AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES FOR TERROR SLAYINGS, WAS PUT ON A YUGOSLAV AIRLINES FLIGHT DESTINED FOR DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD LAST THURSDAY.
4. YUGOSLAVIA GAVE NO INDICATION WHY IT WOULD NOT TURN CARLOS OVER TO FRENCH OR AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES AND LATER SAID IT WAS A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY. SOME OFFICIALS SPECULATED THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S LEADERSHIP POSITION AMONG THE

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SO-CALLED NONALIGNED NATIONS BLOC, WHICH INCLUDES SOME COUN-

TRIES WHERE CARLOS IS CONSIDERED A HERO, MAY HAVE PLAYED A PART.

5. (IN WASHINGTON, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID IT HAS LODGED A FORMAL PROTEST, EXPRESSING "SERIOUS CONCERN" TO YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR REFUSAL TO DETAIN CARLOS. "YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES ALLOWED HIM TO SLIP THROUGH THEIR GRASP," A U.S. OFFICIAL SAID.)

6. WESTERN DIPLOMATS HAVE PRIVATELY CONFIRMED WEST GERMAN REPORTS THAT THE 29-YEAR-OLD VENEZUELAN, WHOSE REAL NAME IS ILYICH RAMIREZ SANCHEZ, LEFT A HIDEAWAY IN ALGERIA EARLY LAST WEEK AND FLEW TO BELGRADE FOR A STAY OF A FEW DAYS IN THE YUGOSLAV CAPITAL.

7. THE ORIGINAL INFORMATION THAT CARLOS--TRAVELING WITH HANS-JOACHIM KLEIN, A SUSPECTED TERRORIST--WAS IN BELGRADE REPORTEDLY CAME FROM WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE.

8. ASKED ABOUT THIS MONDAY, A BONN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SAID PUBLICLY ONLY THAT WEST GERMANY HAD LEARNED THAT CARLOS WAS "BELIEVED" TO BE IN BELGRADE AND THAT WEST GERMANY THEN CONTACTED FRANCE AND AUSTRIA IN AN EFFORT TO HAVE HIM ARRESTED BUT THAT YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES AFTER SOME DELAYS SAID THEY HAD DECIDED THE TWO WERE NOT CARLOS AND KLEIN.

9. CARLOS IS SUSPECTED OF KILLING TWO PARIS POLICEMEN AND HE AND KLEIN ARE WANTED IN AUSTRIA FOR THEIR ALLEGED PARTICIPATION IN LAST DECEMBER'S ATTACK ON A MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES, IN WHICH TWO PERSONS WERE KILLED.

10. WEST GERMAN, FRENCH, AMERICAN AND AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS PRESSED THE YUGOSLAVS TO PICK UP CARLOS, WHO REPORTEDLY WAS BEING WATCHED BY BELGRADE SECURITY MEN.

11. THE AMERICANS, IN PARTICULAR, ARE SAID TO BE ANNOYED BY THE AFFAIR. SHORTLY AFTER CARLOS IS SAID TO HAVE LEFT BELGRADE, THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT UNLEASHED A SHARP VERBAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTACK ON U.S. HANDLING OF THE HIJACKING OF A TWA JET BY YUGOSLAV EMIGRES TO PUBLICIZE THEIR VIEWS OPPOSING YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT TITO AND DEMANDING INDEPENDENCE FOR THE YUGOSLAV STATE OF CROATIA.

12. "THE IRONY HAS NOT BEEN LOST ON US," ONE U.S. OFFICIAL SAID."

13. IN BELGRADE, WHERE NO OFFICIAL PUBLIC COMMENT HAS BEEN MADE, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS QUESTIONED DIRECTLY ABOUT THE SITUATION GAVE VARIOUS ANSWERS. A PRESS OFFICIAL SAID HIS OFFICE HAD NO INFORMATION, AND A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL

SAID HE THOUGHT NO POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION HAD BEEN MADE.

14. OTHER NON-YUGOSLAV SOURCES SAID AT ONE POINT THE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS CARLOS AND KLEIN BUT THEN CHANGED THEIR ASSESSMENT PUBLICLY.

15. SOME SOURCES BELIEVE THAT CARLOS WAS SEEKING TO USE BELGRADE AS A STAGING POINT FROM WHICH HE COULD ENTER WESTERN EUROPE MORE INCONSPICUOUSLY THAN IF HE ATTEMPTED IT FROM ALGERIA. (END TEXT.) HABIB

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